

From: Phil Stracchino
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 2:29am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern:

As a computer user and tech industry worker thoroughly familiar with Microsoft's business practices, I am highly dissatisfied with the Justice Department's proposed remedy in the Microsoft anti-trust case. The proposed settlement amounts to nothing more than another consent decree of the kind that Microsoft has brazenly and openly flouted in the past, and having Microsoft heavily represented on the board in charge of policing its own compliance is, indeed, putting the fox in charge of the henhouse.

Microsoft's business and coding practices have stifled, not fostered, innovation and competition in the industry. Microsoft wouldn't know innovation if it stumbled across it in a bowl of breakfast cereal. The legacy of Microsoft is a nationwide business infrastructure that never saw a virus it didn't like, that can be hacked into by an industrial thief, an Islamic terrorist, or a bored teenager with equal ease. Recent attacks made possible by Microsoft's appallingly cavalier disregard of security, including the Nimda and Code Red worms, have cost American businesses billions of dollars in lost revenues and repair costs. Meanwhile, Microsoft ruthlessly crushes its competitors and shamelessly steals product ideas it likes the sound of, relying upon its vast financial resources to stall any lawsuit until the theft victim runs out of money. The proposed remedy in this case will allow it to continue doing so with impunity.

My understanding is that most of the state Attorney Generals involved in the Microsoft suit have rejected the Justice Department settlement proposal, and are seeking independent action. I am told that even career officials at the Justice Department, who had pursued the case since the beginning, displayed their apparent displeasure with the agreement by not signing it. So many dissenters, so highly placed, probably have a point. Perhaps someone should pay attention to it before it's too late.

Microsoft is, in considerable part, behind many of the problems facing the tech sector today, and this politically-motivated proposed settlement says to innovators in the tech sector that the government doesn't care, that Microsoft can do as it pleases so long as it has more money than those it wrongs. This is not the message that this administration should be sending.

The tech sector economy is grim enough already. Don't make it worse by giving Microsoft carte blanche to loot and pillage at will.

Phil Stracchino
Tracy, California
Former tech sector worker, jobless since 8/31/2001

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***** Fight Back! It may not be just YOUR life at risk. *****

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unix ronin :: renaissance man :: mystic zen biker geek

2000 CBR929RR, 1991 VFR750F3 (fouly murdered), 1986 VF500F (sold)

Linux Now! ...because friends don't let friends use Microsoft.